

# MAYOR-ELECT VAN WYCK TO THE JOURNAL.

He Will Carry Out All the Reforms Insisted on by the Journal--Cheap Gas, More Schools and the Eight Hour Law.

"Put None but Democrats on Guard," Shall Be the Motto of His Administration Which Is to Govern Greater New York.

By Alfred Henry Lewis.

"The election is over, the polls are closed, the ballots counted, the Democracy has been victorious, and I am, I learn, by popular choice the Mayor to be of the City of Greater New York."

It was Judge Van Wyck who spoke. I found him calm, steady, thorough bred, imperturbable. It is worth one's while to be a gentleman. Here was one who had come forth victor from a fierce contest. He had come through the fiery furnace, and yet there was naught of the smell of fire about his garments. There was no waste, no anxiety relieved, no strain removed; he was as cool as ever before his nomination. He had triumphed; one of the greatest offices of the land was his; and yet there was nothing of exultation about him, as of a small soul flattered by elevation. Van Wyck seemed as one, who, on the threshold of responsibilities new and great, was resolved to meet them with honesty, and discharge them with all his power for the general good. The office is high, but here was a man as high as the office.

"There is no reason, whether of policy or propriety," continued Judge Van Wyck, in response to my question, "why I should not say to the people of the city, through the Journal, what is in my mind at this time. Let me say then, that I am grateful; I am not insensible to the compliment bestowed; I can best respond to it by giving the wisest and most honest effort to the discharge of the duties to which I am called."

"At the outset I want to call the general eye again to the Democratic platform, to my letter of acceptance, to my interview in the Journal of October 24. By these I stand; those principles therein set forth I will do my utmost to foster—the promises to the last letter I will keep."

"As we begin this first year of Greater New York there is much to do. Liberty must be restored to the citizen, the protection of his rights must be resumed, the pillage of public money must cease, extravagance must be discountenanced, waste must stop, schools must be built, the streets must be reclaimed from chaos, taxes brought to proper level. Private interest has too long governed this city; it must give way to public good."

"The government of a city, as I understand it, has naught of sentiment about it. It is the merest business. We must get the most good for the least money. No man must be oppressed, his liberty must last inviolate, his life and property must be protected, the broad purposes of city government must be carried out, the greatest good to the greatest number must ever be the star to steer by."

"City government is the merest business, and to make it successful and to reach the ends at which we aim, all the officers of the city, whether they be Mayor, Judges, police, or what you will, must serve the city, not rule it. The people must rule; the officers must execute the people's orders. To make the business of city government a triumph to the citizen, it is further needed that every officer, however high or however low, must be honest and fit. He must know his duties, he must bring probity and faith and honor forward in their discharge."

"We are overtaxed. This must be looked to and the taxes trimmed down. For a city, as for an individual, there are needs, there are comforts, there are luxuries. The needs must be met and fulfilled—every one of them, whether it be a competent police or an adequate school system. When every city need is met, of the comforts and the luxuries we will get what we can."

"I have said that city taxes must be cut down, that honesty and care must come to the spending of public money. Yet you are not to infer from that that I stand in any doubt as to the temper of the New York city public touching improvements and expenditures. There is nothing in the line of improvement that can make this city better to live in that the people are not entitled to and do not want. The New York public is not niggardly, not parsimonious; it wants every benefit, every advantage, and is willing to pay for them. What the people do object to is waste, extravagance and robbery. When you spend a dollar of their money they want to see a dollar's worth of something the city needs in return."

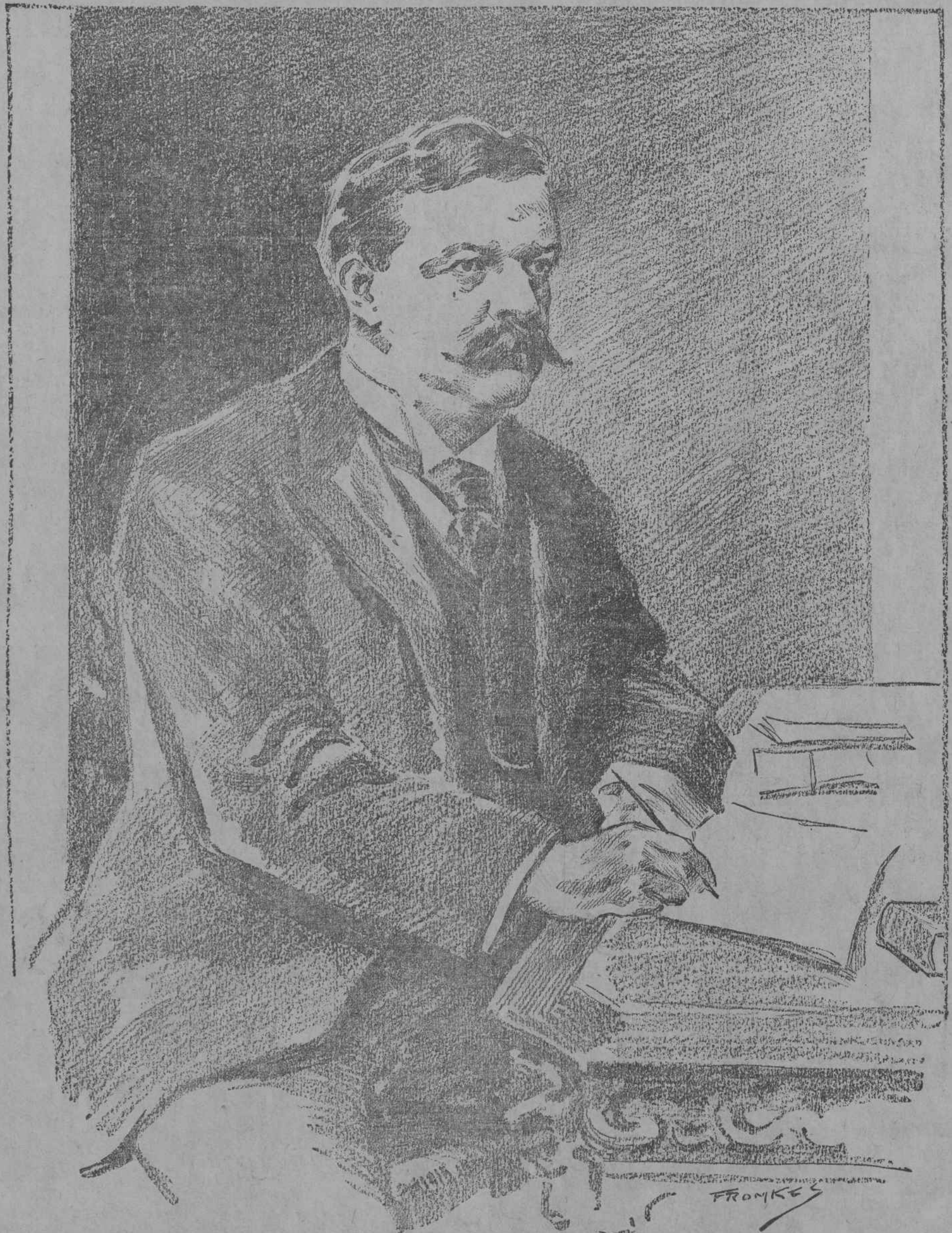
"With honesty and economy for watchwords, I will go to work. And so going about the duties of my office I will exhaust the power of my place to bring about those matters over which this battle was fought and which the Democracy pledged itself and its candidates."

"The efforts of trusts, of monopolies, of combinations, whether corporate or private, to control trade, choke competition and fleece the citizens by false high prices, will be withstood and beaten down."

"Every child must have the right to go to school. Nor shall the school system cease of enlargement until every possible pupil can find fullest accommodation. The child is the citizen of the future. He has a right to an education. It is needed to fit him for the duties to devolve upon him. Ignorant, he is a disaster to himself, a threat and menace to the body politic. Every child must be educated, and to that end the common school system, cost what it may, must be complete."

"To such rights and general benefits as dollar gas I have, in my letter of acceptance, as well as in the platform, been pledged from the first. Those pledges are not to be forgotten; those promises are to be carried out."

"As to such public outrages as flourished under the Rains law, with all the spying and sneaking and mendacity that under it grew up, I cannot add a syllable to what I have already said. These crimes



ROBERT A. VAN WYCK, MAYOR-ELECT OF GREATER NEW YORK.

against the people must disappear; these encroachments upon individual liberty and private rights must end. These are not the Middle Ages, nor is the city of Greater New York Venice in the days of the Doges. A city must have a city government; it cannot be controlled by village rules or run on village lines. The sooner some folk come out of their dreams and realize these facts the wiser, better, happier folk they'll be. The people of this city are of wide mind. They love liberty. And there is no danger of their trying to make that liberty license. Give them home rule; give them liberty; let them spend their own money since they raise their own money; do not try to govern this people as a province from Albany, taxing it to pay tribute to the State at large. This has ever been my thought, ever my word; and during my service as Mayor I will do my honest best to bring these things of public concern about."

"What I said of labor and the eight-hour law I here repeat. The eight-hour law should be enforced, and, where practicable, resident labor should be directly employed. In all cases the prevailing rate of wages should be paid. As I understand the declaration of the Democratic platform upon this point, it means that every contractor doing work for the city should be required to pay as high a rate of wages as the city itself is required to pay for similar work. To this I give my unqualified assent, and in the conduct of the office to which I am called I will do what lies within me in that direction."

"As to the men I shall call to fill office under me, I will be frank and plain. 'Put none but Democrats on guard' shall be the motto of my administration. Fitness, and honesty, and worth as a citizen shall together make up my first demand in selecting a man for an office. The man I appoint to office must own this trio of requisites. I must have proof that the public is to be honestly, faithfully, efficiently served, and that no call of duty on the part of an official is to be denied. I must know that the man I name will do his whole, full duty to this city."

"But to find such a man for every place of appointment under me I need not leave the ranks of the Democracy, and I will not. The man for office under me must be honest, worthy, fit, yes; but he must be a Democrat, and the record of that man's democracy must be pure and must be straight."

"That is my notion of city government, and by that idea I will guide. I do not do this on any 'To the victor belongs the spoils of the enemy' sentiment. It is not a question of victory or of spoils. The sole proposal is good government according to the expressed will of the people. These latter have declared for the Democracy, they have elected its candidates and accepted its platform of principles. With those as the conditions, what fashion of political man should be named to carry out those principles and keep the promises of that platform? Should he be a Republican? Or should he be a Democrat, who aided to make the platform; who believes in the principles set forth; who has fought for their success, and who has a heart to carry them into expression? There can be but one answer to all this. My appointees will be Democrats; none but Democrats. I do not understand the policy or the justice of going to the enemy to select your officers. In the ranks of the Democracy can be found thousands who answer every requirement that the public wear demands, and from the ranks of the Democracy shall come my whole list of appointments."

"I do not proceed on the theory that this victory is mine. It is the victory of the Democracy; the party's victory. It is the party that has been called to the quarterdeck of city government—the pilot house of city affairs. It is the party that is to reap the praise or blame of the good or evil of the coming administration."

"While I shall call none but Democrats to places of trust and power in the carrying forward of the city's business, this administration is not to become in any sort partisan. Here is a city where are gathered men of all races, creeds and nationalities. There is to be naught of favoritism; nothing of discrimination. All men are equal in their rights and will stand equal in their claims upon the coming administration. From first to last, it will be my work to execute the principles laid down in the platform upon which I ran, and to enforce the law. In doing my full duty to the public in that behalf, neither I nor those over whom, by my office, I have control will know any difference of race, color, creed or politics. As all share the burdens, so, too, shall all share the benefits of government and find even, equal protection under the law."

## CHEERS AT THE CAPITAL.

Crowds at Washington Watched the Bulletins and Shouted Over the Returns from New York and Ohio.

Washington, Nov. 2.—The most intense interest has been taken in the election today. It was a remarkable demonstration of the interest of the Washington public in the results of an off-year election. Tonight Pennsylvania avenue was crowded, all of the local papers being located on that thoroughfare, within four blocks. The enthusiasm was great, and cheers greeted each bulletin as it was flashed from the stereopticons.

The chief interest was centered in the New York Mayoralty fight. Closely following this came the result in Ohio and Maryland. Outside of these three points but little attention was paid to the returns from other States.

So much interest was taken in the fight in the various States that but two members of the Cabinet were in the city today. Secretary Long, of the Navy, and Attorney-General McKenna. Secretary Long considered the success of the Republican party in Massachusetts so assured that he did not take the trouble to go home to vote. The remainder are all away.

Secretary Sherman cast his vote in Mansfield, Ohio; Secretary Alger is in Michigan, and Secretary Bliss in New York. Assistant Secretary of State Day voted at Canton, and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt was at his home at Oyster Bay, L. I. Assistant Secretary McKiejohn, of the War Department, voted in Nebraska, where he has been for some weeks stamping the State. At all the clubs and the other election returns were bulletined. At national Republican headquarters, where returns were received, quite a crowd of local politicians were present. The Jackson Democratic Association received its returns at the Metropolitan Hotel, and had a large crowd there.

**Election Certificates Cashed.** King, the great clothier, will accept all election certificates. King's, corner Broadway and Park place.

**Notable Successes.** Last month Journal "Wants" gained 14,577 over same month last year; last week, 3,418 over same week last year; last Sunday, 1,149 over same Sunday last year; yesterday 318 over election day last year. The pulse of the advertiser!